

News Release



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For Immediate Release

New Hours for Boat Inspections, Exams at Gaviota Hoist

Santa Barbara – Boat safety inspections and hoist operating examinations will now be held at the Gaviota State Park boat hoist only on the first Saturday of each month, California State Parks officials announced today. In addition, Saturday hoist service provided by State Park staff is being discontinued.

California State Park Lifeguards and Volunteers will conduct the inspections on the Gaviota pier between 10:00 AM and noon. Practical exams will be held at the hoist starting at noon. Boaters who want to take the exams must be on the pier at noon.

The reduced schedule for the inspections and exams and the discontinuation of staff hoist service is possible because the majority of boaters using the Gaviota hoist have successfully completed the requirements to receive their hoist operator cards, which allows them to use the hoist on a self-serve basis seven days a week from 7:00 A.M. to one hour before sunset (environmental conditions may cause earlier closing).

During the inspections, State Parks staff check for current boat registration, safety equipment, correctly rated sling and mounting points, and general vessel condition. During the operation exam, boats are hoisted a short distance from the trailer to check for sling orientation, proper sling angle, and level load. All boaters must provide a dolly to transport their boats to and from the hoist on the pier. Reservations are not required for the inspections or exams.

Upon successful completion of the inspection, exam, and a three-hour training session, boaters receive their hoist operator card.

More – more - more

Space is still available in the upcoming training class. Persons wanting to sign up for the August 25th class should send an email to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov or a letter to Hoist Operator Training, California State Parks, #10 Refugio Road, Goleta, CA 93117. They must provide their first and last name as well as their phone number with area code. Each person wanting to enroll in the training must apply. Multiple reservation requests by one person or with the same email address are not accepted. Drop-ins are not permitted.

In addition to the email list, California State Parks also maintains a recorded information line with current status of the boat hoist at (805) 968-1033. For more information about Gaviota State Park and the boat hoist, including the complete Hoist Operator Training Handbook, visit the California State Parks web site at www.parks.ca.gov.

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